

# THE REHEARSAL

The most Palpable Forgery, and most Imprudently Manag'd (in a Certain Comical Romance) that this Age hath seen in Print. Wherein the Point of Honour is Nicely Discuss'd.

From Saturday June the 16th, to Saturday June the 23th. 1705.

**Observer.** **I**N thy last thou hast Fix'd the Weather-Cock indeed, That it will be henceforth *Semper Idem*, *Eadem, Idem*. It will never Budge more, nor turn with every Wind. But in the said Review of last May 31. Vol. 2. N. 38. there is another Lye Charg'd upon thee, just following that of the Weather-Cock, of which thou tak'st no Notice, which looks Guiltily in thee, as if thou had'st a mind to slip it off. Therefore I must call thee to an account for it. It is there said, That the Gentleman who wrote this (That is, the Lye about the Weather-Cock) advanced one of the most palpable Forgeries, and most Imprudently Manag'd, that this Age has seen in Print. And being decently reprov'd for it, has not to this Hour thought fit to Vindicate, or Acknowledge it. The Fact is as follows.

He tells us in one of his Rehearsals, "That in the Quarrel between Sir GEORGE ROOK's Friends, and Mr. COLEPEPER, the latter would not Fight, till Mr. DENEW was oblig'd to Cane him, to raise his Courage. Or to this Effect. For which I Appeal to his Paper.

Now as there is not one Word of this True, nor of Mine False, I leave the World to Judge between the Papers call'd the REVIEW and the REHEARSAL, by the Veracity of their Authors.

For Mr. DENEW at his Tryal, to Clear himself from the Charge of an Assassine, for which he was Indicted, swears and brings Witnesses to Prove, "That he never struck Mr. COLEPEPER at all, but that on the contrary, Mr. COLEPEPER drew his Sword first.

Thus the Review. And he Protests, that this is not by way of Recrimination, for the Story of the Weather Cock, which is told just before this.

Country-m. No! For how cou'd he Speak of it, if he had Thought on't? And how came he to Speak of it, if he did not think on't? But he thought it was to no Purpose, For he says, That Recrimination is no Step to a Defence. But let that pass.

First, as to the being decently reprov'd for this, I know not whether it was decently or not. For this is the first time ever I heard on't. I confess I read not half his Papers. And That may have escap'd me. But to the Merits of the Cause.

The Accusation Insinuated against Sir George Rook was, That being afraid to meet the Courage of Mr. Colepeper SINGLE in the Field, he Employ'd Assassins to murder Mr. Colepeper. For this three Gentlemen were Indicted, Mr. Deneu one of them. And all Acquitted of the Conspiracy of Assassination.

And the Design of the Rehearsal was only as to Sir George Rook. Not to vindicate his Courage against Mr. Colepeper. For that would have been no Complement to Sir George. But the Relation that Mr. Colepeper gives of it, in his True State of the Difference between Sir

GEORGE ROOK Knight. And WILLIAM COLEPEPER Esq; &c. Part 1. (I have not heard of the Second) Printed 1704. is so exceedingly entertaining, That I thought such a Comical Romance as this Age has not seen in Print, would be acceptable.

Now as to the Circumstance of Caneing, if there had been any little Mistake as to That, was it of that Consequence as to Ground such a Tragical OUT-CRY of the most Palpable FORGERY (Bless us!) and most imprudently manag'd (when it was all a Jest!) That this Age hath seen in Print. The whole Revolution was nothing to't!

But let us Examine what this Mighty Mistake was. Mr. Deneu (upon his Tryal) says he did not strike Mr. Colepeper with his Cane. The Review quotes no Page of Mr. Colepeper's Book A True State of the Difference, &c. And I'll take his Word, rather than read over 44 Pages in Folio. But I find, p. 15. That Mr. Colepeper himself deposed, That Mr. Deneu said to him, You are a Scoundrel, and a Rascal; and if you will not draw, I'll Cane you — And he up with it, as fast as he cou'd to strike me — says Mr. Colepeper. Now if the Blow did not Light on (for Mr. Colepeper says, he step'd back,) perhaps the Law will not make it a Caneing, tho' it was putting him in a Bodily Fright; But in the Language of Honour (which is always us'd in Romances) the Offer was a direct Caneing.

And it was that same Caneing (whether in Fieri, or in Facto-Esse) which Oblig'd W. C. to draw. And he Pleads it as the Reason, and to Prove he was not the Assailant. And the Reason was allow'd to be Good; and Mr. D. was upon it found Guilty of the Assault, tho' not of the Conspiracy of Assassination, for which he was Indicted. There appearing nothing in the Case, but the Design of a dry --- Rubbing, since nothing else cou'd Perswade W. C. ---'s Sword to shew its Face out of the Peaceful Scabbard where it dwelt, safe under the Protection of the Law. And W. C. very Prudently bore all Affronts, and waited only till he cou'd have the Law on his side --- and then he drew like a Lion!

The Author of the true State, &c. lets us know p. 38. That he was acquainted with Don-Quixote. Therefore I'll tell him a Spanish Story, very A Propo, because they are the Nicest Judges of Honour. A Don there happening into a Dispute with another, after Dinner, the other had his Tooth-Pick in his Hand, and in the Heat of Discourse, moving his Hand, up and down, with the Tooth-Pick in it; the Don afterwards bethought himself, whether some Affront might not have been meant by it, as if he Intended to Beat him with that Tooth-Pick. Upon which he went to Council Learned in the Law of Honour; who, after he had Consulted his Books, gave this Resolution, That if the Tooth-pick was made of a Quill, it was no

no Affront; because People don't use to beat one another with Quills: But if the Tooth-pick was made of Wood, it was a direct Bastinado; because it is not the Size of the Cudgel nor the Smart of the Blow, that is Consider'd by Honour; which is as much wounded by the Offer of an Affront, as if Crabb-Tree were Lay'd upon the Bones. Now Sir, consider that a Cane is but a Reed: And Reeds being no Engines of War in England: Quere, whether Mr. D---'s Cane was any greater Affront to W. C. than if he had shook a Goose Quill at him?

But these Spaniards may be too Squeamish upon the Point of Honour; And why shou'd Mr. W. C. be determin'd by them? He rather appeals to English Judges, and p. 38. Quotes Spelman's Glossary to Prove, that throwing his Hat, and then his Peruke in Mr. D---'s Face, and making a full Pass at him, at the same time, was no Breach of the Law of Combat. And for your Spaniards he says, *ibid.* That as to W. C. who has read the History of DON QUIXOTE, he laughs at those HEROES.

But here I shall be call'd in Question again For did I say, That W. C. threw his Peruke in Mr. D---'s Face? Whereas it did light upon his Shoulder. For thus W. C. said, p. 15. I threw first my HAT at him, which miss'd him; afterwards I threw my PERUKE, which hit upon his SHOULDER: I took that Opportunity, and made a home Pass at him. Says Mr. DENEW, that is not. FAIR---FAIR! said I, any thing to an Assassin. You are a Villain Hir'd by--- to Assassinate me.

As to the Fairness, it is Clear'd in Spelman's Glossary. As the Assassination was by the Fury.

But for the Shoulder! The Shoulder! What shall be said to That? BEHOLD one of the most Palpable FORGERIES, and most Imprudently Manag'd than this Age has seen in PRINT!

But what signifies this AGE, or this Corner of the Earth? see the True State, p. 6. And there you will see, That the WORLD has not in ANY AGE produc'd a Man beyond Mr. DE-FOE for his Miraculous Fancy, and Lively Invention in all his Writings, both Verse and Prose. And if he was the Pen-man of this True State, as is suppos'd, this was very Prudently Manag'd! However he is Oblig'd in Gratitude to stand by his Ingenious and Magnanimous Friend, who had the Courage to give such a Romantick Character of his Worthyness, as no less a Hero durst have Ventur'd to have Done!

But supposing Mr. De-Foe to be the Author, he may Defie Don Quixot, Scarron, and all the Writers of Romances, in any Age of the World, for such a Character of an Hero, as he has dress'd up! Page 3. of the True State, he tells how W. C. having heard that Sir George Rook had Wrote something very disobliging of him; And that He ought to have an Account of it from Sir G. R. himself (that was like a Man of Honour he went to Sir GEORGE, and ask'd him, if he had written such a Letter? Sir George (says he) with an Air of Coldness and Gravity, told him, that he had wrote so, and repeated the Words to him. Was not this Sneakingly, and Cowardly done? Now Thunder and Lightning, Blood and Destruction! But Pallas came in Shape of Prudence, and rescu'd her Hero, now in sad Distress! W. C. reply'd, now I have it from your Self, Sir, I am satisfied, but before I was not willing to believe it. And without any other Words between them, W. C. took his Leave.

After this he tells; That Sir George sent him a Challenge. But W. C. would not fight him in England, for fear of being Hang'd. For he was sure to slay! Nor in Holland (which Sir

George offer'd) for the same Reason. And lest the Wind shou'd blow him into France Or some body Tip him over Board, as he tells p. 40. And p. 38. He refus'd to fight another, because he was such a Coward as to threaten him. And another, because he had learn'd to fence. And another, and another, because he wou'd fight none, till he had fought Sir G. R. first. And that there were 20 more before them, and he must fight them in their Order. And as to his Behaviour at the time of the Assault, he values himself upon it, that he was Master of his Temper; since not oblig'd by the Rules of Honour, he drew his Sword purely in his own Defence. Was he not then Can'd into it? At least, it was the Cane made him do it. For there was no other Assault made upon him, but by the Cane. And the Law judg'd it to be an Assault. So that this was a Caneing, even in Law. And the Review's nice Distinction in behalf of W. C. is like that of one who being Kicked Patiently, and ask'd by a Friend, if he wou'd Take that, answer'd, I did not Take it, he Gave it me.

Now could any thing less than a Miraculous Fancy and Lively Invention have Brought an Hero through so many Dangers; and Invented so many Excuses to Avoid Fighting? And yet Honour safe still!

But he fought for Peace, and for the Law! And to Prevent the Shedding of Christian Blood!

Will not this PASSIVE Hero have a Place in Mr. De-Foe's now Printing brave long Satyr against Passive Obedience? W. C. cannot do less than be a Sub-Subscriber! But if his Wit outweigh his Courage half a Grain, he'll give the Mr. Review no Thanks for reviving this Matter. And that thou wilt not let it Rest.

For just now since I began the last Paragraph, thy (lately Deceas'd) Truth and Honesty, of the 4th Instant, N. 24. is come to my hands; where in thou hast this Matter of Mr. Denew and the Cane over again. And Insults unmeasurably, that it is not answer'd. And it seems it has been in several of thy former Papers, which I have not seen.

Thou tak'st upon thee likewise to name the Author of the Rebearsal. And bestow'st some of thy loving Strokes upon him. This has been long Harp'd upon by Observer, and the Rest of the scandalous Clubb. But guess on. That Author will not tell any of you who he is not, that you may not be nearer guessing who he is.

Thou call'st him likewise a Church Hireling. And that he has a Contribution from the High-Church for writing this Paper. Thus measuring his Corn by thy Bushel. But if thou'llt take my word, I can assure thee, that to this Day he has not Receiv'd one Farthing either For or By that Paper. Nor was he put upon it, otherwise than by the Prospect he had of doing Good, and rescuing the Common People, from the Mischief he saw was done them, in the Popular Principles of Confusion which were instill'd into them in these Weekly and Rebellious Papers, to make us another Poland; and in order to that, vilely Aspersing of the Church, and the Ministry. Not sparing the Queen her self. He easily foresaw what Dirt he must meet with, more than Hercules found in the Stable of Augeas; when he Provok'd worse Beasts than St. Paul Fought with at Ephesus. But if he help to open the Eyes of any One, he thinks it a sufficient Compensation. If not, he has his Reward in undergoing such a Penance, for what he thought a Good End.